

PLECTRANTHUS PLANT NAMED 'CAPE ANGELS DARK PINK'

Latin name of genus and species of the plant claimed:

Plectranthus hybridus

Variety denomination:

5 Cape Angels Dark Pink

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Plectranthus* plant, botanically known as *Plectranthus hybridus* (Family Lamiaceae), hereinafter referred to by the name 'Cape Angels Dark Pink'.

10 The new *Plectranthus*, 'Cape Angels Dark Pink', is a new and distinct mutation (sport), detected in a production batch of *Plectranthus hybridus*, 'Cape Angels Pink' (U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently herewith) by the Inventor, Gert Johannes Brits, in Kortegaard, Nørre Søby, Denmark. The objective of the breeding program in which the mutation was detected
15 is to improve current blue market cultivar 'Edelbau' by developing more compact growth habit, larger flowers and improved vigor. The new *Plectranthus* originated from a hybrid backcross by the Inventor between a proprietary selection of *Plectranthus saccatus* named 'F1' (unpatented) and a proprietary selection of unnamed *Plectranthus hilliardiae* (unpatented). The

new cultivar has been produced only by vegetative propagation (cuttings).

The Inventor selected the new *Plectranthus* cultivar from the progeny of the above cross in 2001 on the basis of its compact growth habit, larger flowers and increased vigor.

5 Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken and propagated, has shown that each of the progenies exhibit characteristics identical to the original plant. These characteristics have been shown to come true to form through many generations of asexual propagation under commercial production conditions in Nr. Lyndelse, Fyn,
10 Denmark. The present invention has been tested under lighted greenhouse conditions and for keeping quality in a consumer environment, but may differ in various aspects if grown under different conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar 'Cape Angels Dark Pink' have not been observed
15 under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, day length, and fertility level without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
20 determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Cape Angels Dark Pink' as

a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Large dark pink flowers;
2. Compact and freely branching plant habit;
- 5
3. Shorter production time; and
4. Dense, colorful foliage.

Side-by-side comparisons between the instant plant and the "mother"
10 cultivar 'Cape Angels Pink' were conducted by the Inventor. Plants of 'Cape
Angels Dark Pink' differ from 'Cape Angels Pink' in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink' have longer, dark pink flowers than
plants of 'Cape Angels Pink'.
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2. Plants of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink' have better branching growth habit
than plants of 'Cape Angels Pink'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the overall
appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is

reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which more accurately describe the actual colors of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink'.

5 The first photographic drawing shows a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink' as grown in 12 cm pots. The second photographic drawing shows a close-up view of typical flowering racemes of 'Cape Angels Dark Pink'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

10 In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart, 4th edition. Plants were grown under greenhouse conditions. The plants described were between 12 and 15 weeks old after cutting, as grown in 12 cm pots.

Parentage: Mutation discovered in a production batch of *Plectranthus*
15 *hybridus*, 'Cape Angels Pink', a hybrid backcross between proprietary selection of *Plectranthus saccatus* named 'F1' (unpatented) and unnamed *Plectranthus hilliardiae* (unpatented).

Propagation:

Type cutting. Terminal vegetative cuttings.

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Plant description:

Form: Perennial, herbaceous plant with upright, branched plant form.

- 5 **Crop time:** Flowering induced by short day treatment in 12 cm pots for 4 weeks under greenhouse conditions.

Plant height (soil level to top of plant plane): About 35 cm.

Plant spread: About 35 cm

Stem: Upright, stiff, square, branching from base, RHS 136B (dark green)

- 10 **Vigor:** Vigorous growth rate

Foliage description: Leaves single, ovate, serrate. Arrangement: opposite, decussate. Length: 8 cm. Width: 6 cm. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Cuneate.

Texture: adaxial: rough (hispid), shiny; abaxial: smooth, velvety. **Venation:**

- 15 **brochidodromus**, prominent, dark purple-brown, N79 B. **Color**, ventral side:

Young foliage, upper and lower surfaces: RHS 136 A, green. Mature

foliage, upper and lower surfaces: RHS 136 A. **Color**, dorsal side: Young

foliage, RHS 139 B. Mature foliage: RHS 138 B.

Petiole: 3 cm in length, hispid texture, N77A (purple)

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Flower description:

Flower arrangement: Raceme of panicles.

Flower shape: Irregular labiate, flat tubular with 4 lips of different size and shape.

Flower longevity on the plant: Longevity of individual flowers is highly dependent on temperature and light conditions.

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Number of flowers per inflorescence: 25-30; 80-90 per stem; up to 200 per plant.

Inflorescence size: Apical: 10 cm; Basal: 6 cm; Diameter: 8 cm.

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Buds: Length: Up to 20 mm before antithesis; height: 5 mm; width: 1 mm; tubular with angular "head", RHS 59 A (red purple); base RHS 63 B, pink, to white.

15 Petals: 5 fused to basal, flat tubular corolla. Lips spotted, velvety texture. Top lip (2 fused) to inverted cordate form, revolute upright, 12 mm. Bottom lip involute, almost cup-shaped, 7 mm. Wing lips small, rounded, 4 mm. Color: ventral side of lips: light purple, N82D; dark purple spots: N79A; throat: violet, RHS 84 D; dorsal side: light red-purple, RHS 63 C.

20 Calyx: 5 pointed lobes fused at base; veins: dark purple, N79A; ground tissue: green, RHS 136 C.

Reproductive Organs:

Stamen: 4 monoadelphous, lower part fused to corolla tube.

Anther: Kidney-shaped, purple, N79B

- 5 Pistil: Lower part fused to corolla tube; free part 5 mm, curling upward with cleft stigma, purple, N79B

Ovary: N144A, yellow-green

Seed: 5 seeds per capsule. Immature seeds: RHS 150 B (light yellow-green)

Fragrance: None

- 10 Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Plectranthus* have exhibited good tolerance to drought, rain and wind, low temperature resistant to 5C.